

AMPHTHILL
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

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AMPTHILL,

March, 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Report upon the Sanitary Condition of the Town of Ampthill, for the year 1896.

The Population of Ampthill, according to the Census of 1891, is 2,294. Area Acres, 1,742.

The number of Births registered during the year was 49; including 20 Males, and Females, corresponding to an Annual Birth-rate of 21.36 per 1,000, as compared with 24 per 1,000 in 1895.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 38; including 21 Males and Females, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 16.56 per 1,000. Of these Deaths occurred in the Workhouse, including 4 Ampthill Parishioners, making the correct Death-rate 14.38 per 1,000, as compared with 17.0 per 1,000 in 1895.

Of the total number of Deaths, 4 occurred under 1 year; corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 1.743 per 1,000 as compared with 214 per 1,000 in 1895; 3 between 1 and years; 1 between 5 and 15 years; 4 between 15 and 25 years; 11 between 25 and 60 years; and 15 over 65 years of age.

2 Deaths were due to Measles; 1 to Puerperal Fever; 6 to Phthisis; 1 to Tuberculosis; 2 to Heart Disease; 1 to Cancer; 7 to Old Age; 1 to Inanition (age 5 days); 2 to Bronchitis; 4 to Pneumonia; 1 to Enteritis.

Not one Death occurred from Diarrhoea.

Infantile Mortality was low compared to Infantile Mortality in 1895.

One case of Scarlatina was notified in January.

In September, 2 cases of Scarlatina were notified occurring in one family. The Town was probably saved a severe outbreak by Strict Home Isolation; the Father was advised not to continue his occupation (Sweep) for a few weeks, he was compensated by the Council. The probable source of infection was the return home of a daughter from London, convalescent from a Scarlatina Hospital.

Four cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year.

Eight cases of Enteric Fever were notified; none of them proved fatal, disinfectants were freely used.

A severe epidemic of Measles occurred in the Autumn which necessitated closing the Schools in Bedford Street and Woburn Street; there were only two Deaths.

The Council hope soon to obtain a pure water supply for the Town, which is much needed.

During the latter part of the year the Sewage Farm received special attention, with a view to improving the effluent: I consider the effluent has been improved.

A scheme for Re-sewering the Town is under consideration.

The Public Scavenging Cart does good work removing, twice a week, collections of refuse, ashes, &c.

No Hospital exists in the Town for the Isolation of cases of Infectious Diseases. I brought before the notice of the Council, in September, the advantages of Isolation Hospitals as a means of preventing the spread of infectious diseases from persons who cannot be properly isolated in their own homes. The consideration of the subject was unhappily postponed.

The Inspector of Nuisances reported various nuisances of a minor character which have been abated.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act still continues in force in the Town.

During the year two old Slaughter Houses have been abolished, and one new one erected: there are now four Private Slaughter Houses, all in a satisfactory condition.

The Bakehouses and Dairies have been inspected during the year.

With regard to the Sanitary Condition of the Bedford Street Schools: Moule's Dry-cloth Closets have been provided for the Girls and Infants; the Closets for the Boys are connected with the new sewer in Bedford Street. The Woburn Street School is still unconnected with any sewer.

Through the kindness of your former Medical Officer and your Clerk, I have been able to furnish my Report for the whole year, as my appointment only dates from the end June.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

